REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 9, 18-21, and 23-29 are amended and claims 2, 4, and 22 are canceled herein. With entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-21, and 23-29 will be pending.

Claims 1, 3, 5-21, and 23-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 6,963,575 (Sistanizadeh et al.).

Claim 1 is directed to a method of establishing a BGP mesh in a network. The method includes, inter alia, receiving BGP peering information flooded from a network device and automatically discovering at least one neighbor utilizing the received BGP peering information. The claims has been amended to specify that the BGP peering information comprises static configuration parameters and a BGP peering session is automatically established with the neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

The Sistanizadeh et al. patent is directed to enhanced data switching/routing for multi-regional IP over fiber network. Routers within a regional network form a mini-autonomous system for boundary gateway protocol. An access ring network includes edge-point of presence (E-POP) switches. Sistanizadeh et al. do not disclose receiving BGP peering information flooded from a network device, automatically discovering a neighbor utilizing received BGP peering information, or automatically establishing a BGP peering session with the neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner refers to col. 23, line 60 - col. 24, line 5 of Sistanizadeh et al. This section of the patent describes E-POPs that define static IP packet routing to customer systems 31 served by the respective E-POP. The connection of each access ring to the backbone uses OSPF. Switches within an area flood route information under OSPF. There is no disclosure of flooding BGP peering

information. In contrast to applicant's invention, Sistanizadeh et al. utilize conventional BGP (see, col. 24, line 65 - col. 26, line 67). OSPF is used in the connection of each access ring to the backbone ring as an interior gateway protocol (IGP). Whereas, BGP is an exterior gateway protocol (EGP). ("The autonomous system for BGP purposes . . . is not the same as that for OSPF.", col. 25 lines 5-6; "OSPF runs . . . only within the regional networks, whereas BGP provides routing information ultimately intended for communications going to and from the Internet". col. 27, lines 27-29).

Conventional systems such as Sistanizadeh et al. establish BGP neighbors (or peers) by manual configuration between routers. Manual configuration of routers for establishment of a full mesh constitutes a significant operational problem in terms of configuration management. Applicant's invention, as set forth in the claims, uses flooding of BGP peer information which includes static configuration parameters. This peer information is then used to automatically discover at least one neighbor. This allows for automatic establishment of a BGP peering session.

Moreover, Sistanizadeh et al. do not communicate configuration parameters for BGP until after they establish a TCP connection (see, col. 25, lines 31 - 43). Thus, these configuration parameters cannot be used to discover a neighbor for which a peer session has not yet been established.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted as not anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al.

Claims 3 and 5-17, depending either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are submitted as patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 18-21 and 23-29, as amended, are submitted as patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Furthermore, Claim 21 has been amended to recite flooding received BGP peering information to another network device, as set forth in original dependent claim

22. The Examiner has failed to provide support for rejection of claim 21 (see, page 7 of the Office Action dated March 31, 2008).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. Kaplan
Reg. No. 40,043

P.O. Box 2448
Saratoga, CA 95070
Tel: 408-399-5608
Fax: 408-399-5609